Alberta
CAREER DEVELOPMENT
AND EMPLOYMENT

Immigration and Settlement

IMMIGRATION TO ALBERTA

(OVERVIEW FROM 1982 TO 1986)

JULY 1987

The purpose of this overview is to provide an easy-to-read summary of information for Albertans interested in immigration-related issues. This is an update of a similar overview published in April 1986. Under the Honourable Rick Orman, Minister of Career Development and Employment, Immigration and Settlement has the primary provincial mandate for immigrant settlement in Alberta. This includes funding support for volunteer immigrant aid organizations and development of materials related to the settlement of newcomers.

The main information source for this 1982 - 1986 overview is the ANNUAL REPORT - IMMIGRATION TO ALBERTA prepared by the Labour Market Information and Planning Division of Career Development and Employment. Most of the data was taken from the Immigration Records (IMM 1000 system) of the Canada Employment and Immigration Commission. Unless otherwise indicated, tables are based on calendar years. Data for 1986 is preliminary and subject to revision.

If you have any comments or suggestions for changes in future overviews, please contact:

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ALBERTA'S POPULATION

Every sixth Alberta resident is a first-generation immigrant. The 1981 Census showed that 365,000 (16.5%) of the 2.2 million people in the province were born outside of Canada. In Edmonton and Calgary, where most of the recent immigrants have settled, about 20% of all residents are foreign-born.

A section of the 1981 Census on ethnic origin showed that the majority of Albertans trace their ancestry back to the following ten ethnic groups:

British	963,000 (43.5%)
German	233,000 (10.5%)
Ukrainian	137,000 (6.2%)
French	111,000 (5.0%)
Scandinavian	78,500 (3.5%)
Dutch	65,000 (2.9%)
Native Indian	60,000 (2.7%)
Polish	37,000 (1.7%)
Chinese	37,000 (1.7%)
Indo-Pakistani	21,000 (0.9%)
	(78.6%)

An additional 197,000 (8.9%) traced their ethnic origin at least in part to either British or French, and another 12,000 people listed Native Indian as part of their ancestry.

A more recent trend indicates that Southeast Asians (Vietnamese, Laotians and Kampucheans) have been the most numerous refugee group to Alberta since 1981. 1986 estimates show that approximately 30,000 (1.5%) of all Alberta residents are of Southeast Asian background. Spanish-speaking refugees and other immigrants from Central and South America make up less than one percent of the Alberta population.

ALBERTA IMMIGRATION HIGHLIGHTS

Overview of numbers

Since the beginning of 1982 over 57,000 new immigrants have arrived in Alberta. Preliminary figures from the Alberta Bureau of Statistics show that 21,300 Alberta residents emigrated to other countries during that same five-year period from 1982 to 1986. The peak immigration year was 1982 with nearly 18,000 new arrivals. This levelled off to about 10,500 arrivals per year in 1983 and 1984, and to just over 9,000 in 1985 and 1986.

Projections

The Government of Canada projects higher immigration figures for 1987:

12,500 new arrivals to Alberta (including 2,000 refugees).
115,000 to 125,000 total for Canada (including 18,000 refugees).

Alberta, with 9% of Canada's population, has received approximately 9.5% of all new immigrants to Canada in recent years.

Origins of Immigrants

Immigration from Europe decreased from 43% in 1981 to 20.8% in 1986.

Immigration from Asia increased from 36% in 1981 to 44.5% in 1986.

Knowledge of English

More than 50% of all immigrants arriving in Alberta in 1986 had no knowledge of English. Among refugees in recent years, approximately 85% had no knowledge of English prior to arrival. In addition, many immigrants listed in immigration statistics as knowing English need further English instruction before being able to function in the job market.

Educational background

Levels of education among all immigrants have not shown significant differences in the past five years' statistics. Approximately 10% of all immigrants had university degrees, 14% had no formal education. The majority of the remaining 76% had less than secondary education. Number of years in school, however, tell only part of the story. Education and vocational training in cultures different from Canada may not be transferrable in practice to equivalency levels in Alberta.

Age groups

Age distribution of 1986 immigrants is not significantly different from previous years:

Ages	0 to 14	20.1%
	15 to 24	23.9%
	25 to 44	37.3%
	45 to 64	13.2%
	65 and over	5.5%

Male/female ratio

The proportion of females to males among newly arrived immigrants has steadily increased over the past few years from 48.2% females in 1980 to 51.8% in 1986.

Refugees

Over 13,000 refugees were among the 57,000 new arrivals in the five years from 1982 to 1986. The percentage of refugees among immigrants to Alberta in recent years has been about 20% (from a low of 17.3% in 1982 to a high of 27.9% in 1986).

Based on recent trends and refugee allocations, we can expect approximately 2,000 refugees to settle in Alberta in 1987. About 1,850 of these will be assisted by the Government of Canada for up to one year:

400 to 500 from Southeast Asia
400 to 500 from Eastern Europe
400 to 500 from Latin America
300 to 400 from other world areas, mainly from Africa and the Middle East.

Federal government plan for settlement of 1987 refugee arrivals in Alberta:

Edmonton	666
Calgary	666
Red Deer	140
Lethbridge	111
Medicine Hat	93
Camrose	65
Grande Prairie	56
Fort McMurray	56

Family Class and Assisted Relatives

Immigrants joining relatives already here account for over 50% of all immigrants to Alberta in recent years. Preliminary figures for 1986 show 4,313 family class arrivals and 576 assisted relatives.

Entrepreneurs, investors and self-employed immigrants

As a percentage of overall immigration to Alberta, this group has always been under 5%. Numbers, including dependents, dropped from over 535 in 1982 to a low of 245 in 1985. In 1986, the number rose again to 460 (4.9% of all immigrants in that year).

Other Independent Immigrants (not including Assisted Relatives, entrepreneurs, investors and self-employed)

Until 1982, slightly over one-third of all immigrants to Alberta were in the independent category of people selected under the point system for admission to Canada. They are expected to be self-supporting immediately and requiring no -- or only minimal -- settlement assistance. Changes in federal admission criteria in 1982 resulted in a decrease in the number of independents admitted from 35.8% in 1982 to 13.4% in 1983. In 1986, nearly 15% (1,380 individuals) were admitted in that category, including dependents and a few self-supporting retirees.

First Destination in Alberta

Over the past five years, 42.0% of all immigrants have settled in Calgary, 40.6% in Edmonton. Others have gone to Lethbridge (2.3%), Red Deer (2.2%), Fort McMurray (1.1%), Medicine Hat (1.4%), other Alberta communities (10.4%).

HELP FOR NEWCOMERS AFTER ARRIVAL IN ALBERTA

Only government-sponsored refugees (1,850 in 1986) are eligible for direct financial assistance from the federal government for a maximum of 12 months after arrival, or until the head of the family has found employment. Refugees have to pay back in full any government loans covering passage to Canada, tenants' damage deposit and other expenses related to initial settlement.

All other immigrants are expected to pay their own way with help from their families, or with assistance from other private sponsors.

Community-based volunteer immigrant aid organizations are active in many Alberta communities. Their purpose is to assist all newcomers in non-monetary ways to get settled in Alberta. These organizations provide orientation to life in Alberta, interpretation services, general counselling and help for newcomers in finding accommodation and employment.

Community volunteers, including interpreters, put in more than 58,000 unpaid hours of service last year in helping over 18,000 recent arrivals throughout Alberta.

IMMIGRATION TO ALBERTA - 1982 TO 1986

CATEGORY	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986*	TOTAL
Refugee & Designated	3,100 17.3%	2,463 23.0%	2,397 22.5%	2,480 27.5%	2,608 27.9%	13,048 22.6%
Family	6,195 34.5%	5,602 52.4%	5,409 50.6%	4,180 46.4%	4,313 46.2%	25,699 44.5%
Assisted Relatives	1,684 9.4%	679 6.3%	1,375 12.9%	997 11.1%	576 6.2%	5,311 9.2%
Entrepreneurs & Self-Employed	535 3.0%	519 4.8%	398 3.7%	245 2.8%	460 4.9%	2,157 3.7%
Other Independents	6,434 35.8%	1,431 13.4%	1,091 10.3%	1,099 12.3%	1,440 14.8%	11,495 19.8%
TOTALS	17,948 100%	10,694 100%	10,670 100%	9,001 100%	9,397 100%	57,710 100%

* 1986 data is preliminary and subject to adjustment.

Source: IMM 1000, Canada Employment and Immigration

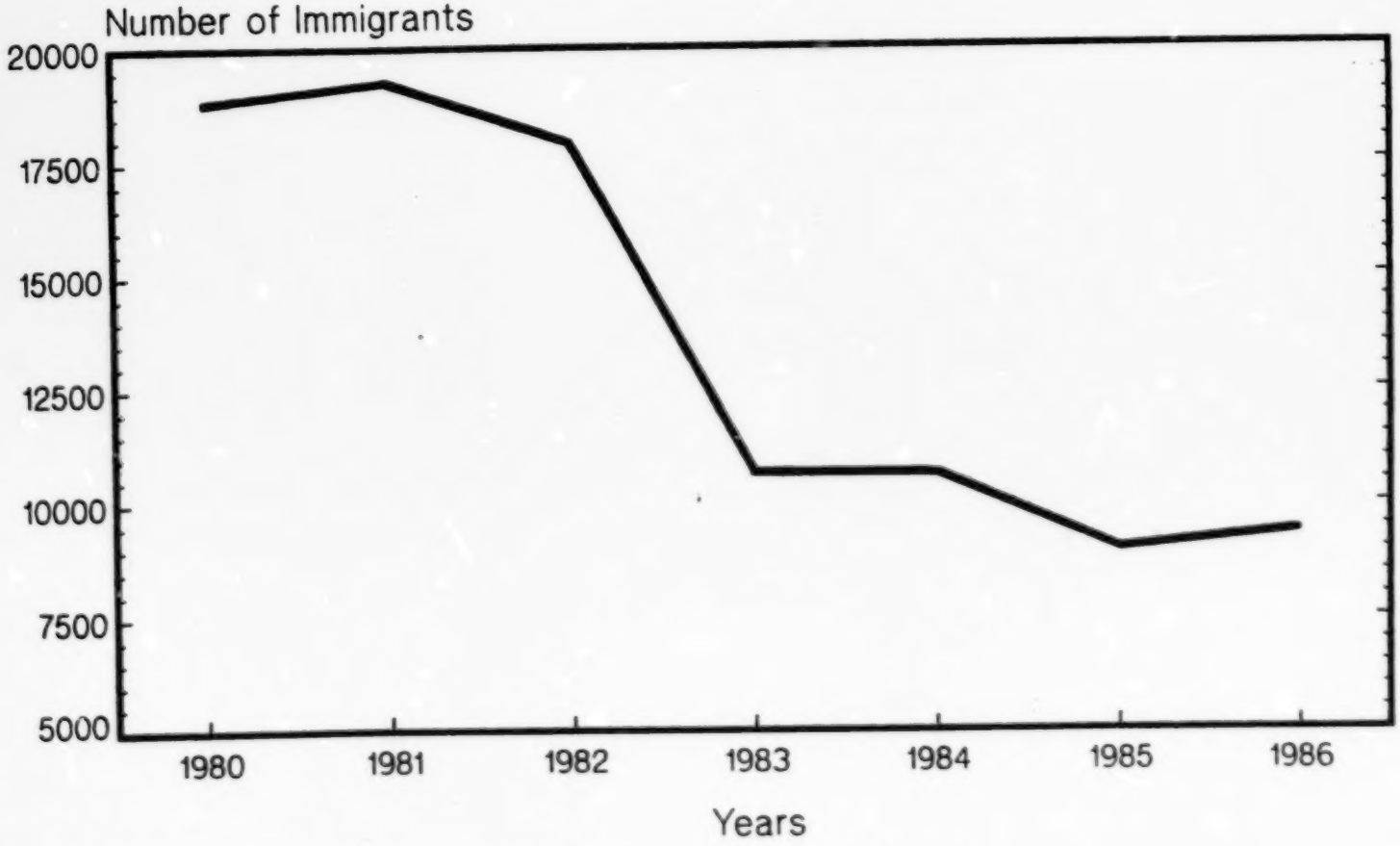
IMMIGRATION TO MAJOR COMMUNITIES IN ALBERTA BETWEEN 1982 - 1986

COMMUNITY	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	TOTAL
Calgary	7,700 42.9%	4,363 40.8%	4,521 42.4%	3,669 40.8%	4,024 42.8%	24,277 42.0%
Edmonton	7,161 39.9%	4,502 42.1%	4,265 40.0%	3,694 41.0%	3,776 40.2%	23,398 40.6%
Fort McMurray	179 1.0%	117 1.1%	117 1.1%	100 1.1%	106 1.1%	619 1.1%
Lethbridge	359 2.0%	246 2.3%	255 2.4%	253 2.8%	210 2.2%	1,323 2.3%
Medicine Hat	144 0.8%	106 1.0%	160 1.5%	155 1.7%	169 1.8%	734 1.4%
Red Deer	305 1.7%	235 2.2%	245 2.3%	231 2.6%	208 2.2%	1,224 2.2%
Other	2,100 11.7%	1,125 10.5%	1,107 10.3%	899 10.0%	*904 9.7%	6,135 10.4%
TOTAL	17,948 100%	10,694 100%	10,670 100%	9,001 100%	9,397 100%	57,710 100%

* This figure includes 85 to Grande Prairie, 50 to Camrose, 29 to Wetaskiwin, 23 to Brooks, 15 to Vegreville, 14 to St. Paul, 13 to Lloydminster, 12 to Pincher Creek, 11 to Edson, 10 to Ponoka, 10 to Drumheller, 10 to Slave Lake.

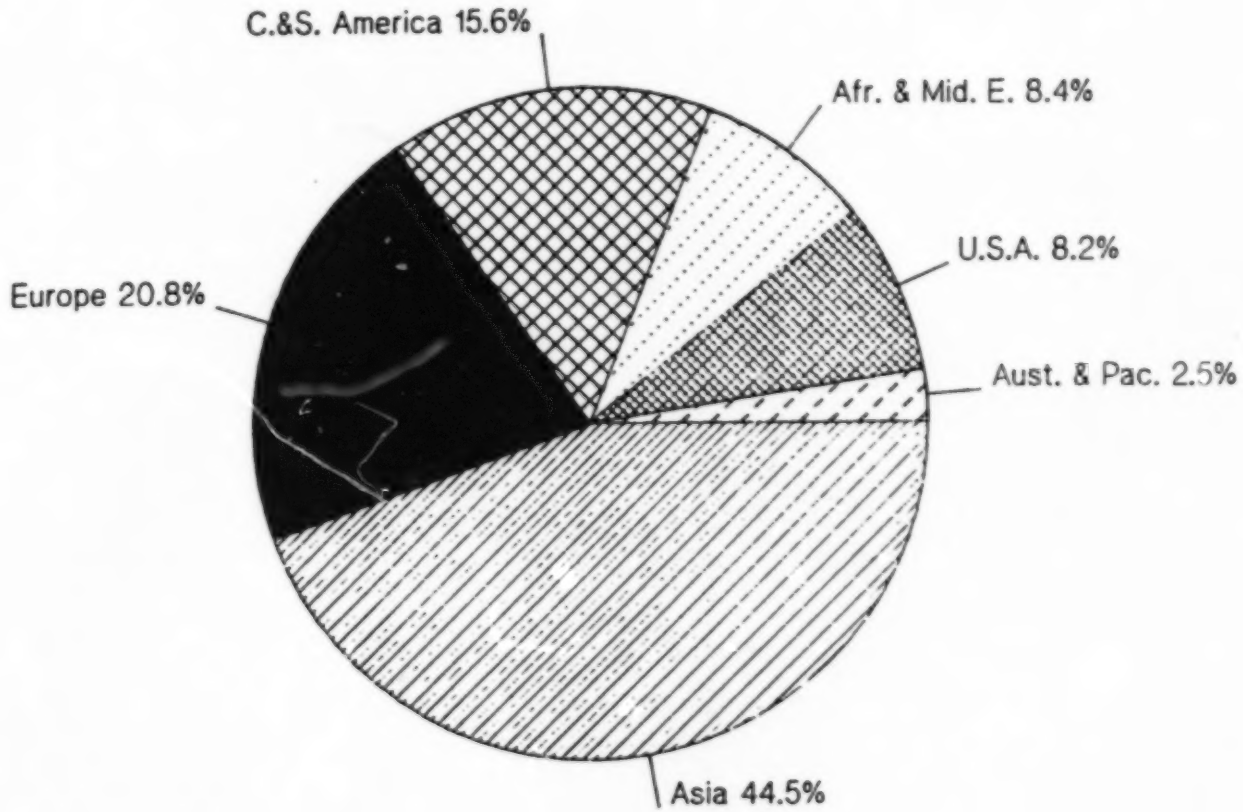
Source: IMM 1000, Canada Employment and Immigration

Immigration To Alberta
1980 to 1986*



*Note: 1986 data is preliminary.

Immigration To Alberta
By Continent of Origin, 1986*



*Note: 1986 data is preliminary.

IMMIGRATION TO CANADA OVER THE PAST CENTURY
ANNUAL IMMIGRATION AVERAGES COMPARED TO TOTAL POPULATION

Period	Total population at end of decade	Percentage of foreign-born	Average annual immigration	Comments
1881 - 1891	4,833,000	13%	90,300	The peak immigration year was 1883 with 133,623 arrivals, many of them settling along the new railway in Saskatchewan and Alberta.
1891 - 1901	5,371,000	13%	32,600	
1901 - 1911	7,207,000	22%	175,900	Large groups of Eastern Europeans settle as farmers in the Prairies.
1911 - 1921	8,788,000	22%	161,200	The record year was 1913 with 400,870 immigrants. Little immigration during World War One from 1914 to 1918.
1921 - 1931	10,377,000	22%	120,300	
1931 - 1941	11,507,000	22%	15,000	The Depression years.
1941 - 1951	14,009,000*	18%	54,800	World War Two. Immigration picked up again in 1948 with 125,414 arrivals.
1951 - 1961	18,238,000	15%	154,300	Southern and Eastern European groups.
1961 - 1971	21,568,000	16%	142,900	
1971 - 1981	24,083,000	16%	144,700	Southeast Asian and Latin-American groups.

* Newfoundland with a population of 361,416 became part of Canada in this period.

IMMIGRANT AID ORGANIZATIONS SUPPORTED BY SETTLEMENT SERVICES IN ALBERTA

EDMONTON IMMIGRANT SERVICES ASSOCIATION
Cromdale School
11240 - 79 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5B 2K1
474-8445

ST. BARNABAS REFUGEE SOCIETY
Suite 400, 10136 - 100 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5J OP1
428-7094

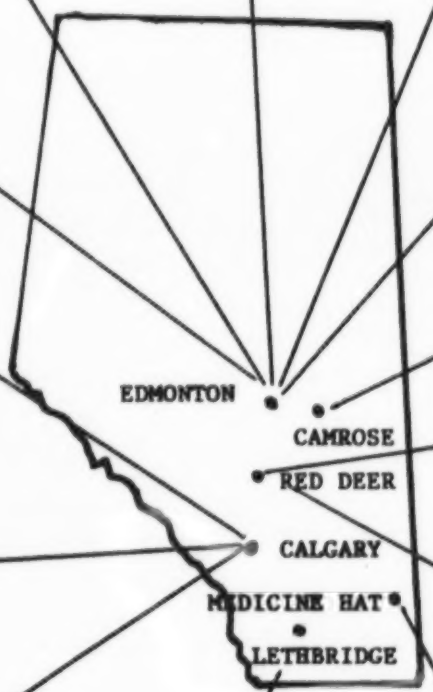
CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
Immigration and Settlement Services
10420 - 107 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H OW1
424-3545

EDMONTON MENNONITE CENTRE FOR THE ASSISTANCE OF NEWCOMERS
Room 202, 10830 - 107 Avenue
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H OX2
424-7709, 7714, 1150

CHANGING TOGETHER - A CENTRE FOR IMMIGRANT WOMEN
Kings College, Collective Bldg., 4th Floor
10765 - 98 Street
Edmonton, Alberta
T5H 2P2
421-0175

CALGARY IMMIGRANT AID SOCIETY
223 - 12 Avenue, S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2R OG9
265-1120

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
#2, 4908 - 50 Street
Camrose, Alberta
T4V 1R1
672-1304



CENTRAL ALBERTA REFUGEE EFFORT (C.A.R.E.) COMMITTEE
#202, 5000 Gaetz Avenue
Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 4B2
346-8818

CALGARY CATHOLIC IMMIGRATION SOCIETY
1916 - 2nd Street, S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2S 1S3
245-8800

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES
#202, 5000 Gaetz Avenue
Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 4B2
346-7055

CALGARY IMMIGRANT WOMEN'S CENTRE
Room 200A,
223 - 12 Avenue, S.W.
Calgary, Alberta
T2R OG9
266-0822

MEDICINE HAT SOCIETY FOR IMMIGRANT SETTLEMENT
#206, 1741 Dunmore Rd., S.E.
Medicine Hat, Alberta
T1A 1Z8
529-9450

LETHBRIDGE IMMIGRANT SETTLEMENT ASSOCIATION
506 - 4th Avenue, South
Lethbridge, Alberta
T1J ON3
327-5333

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